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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,911	09/30/2003	Yi Zhang	022395-006220US	3486
46670 7590 01/11/2007 TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			EXAMINER MCFADDEN, SUSAN IRIS	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,911

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Susan McFadden

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-14, 16-18 and 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-40, 47-50, 52, and 54-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-14, 16-18 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 5-11,13,14,16-18, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kennedy, III et al. (6,405,033).

In regard to claim 5, Kennedy, III et al. in Figure 1, show a universal interface for accessing one or more information systems from a user device, the universal interface comprising: an input converter for converting voice or tone inputs from the user device to commands (audio interface, item 50, DTMF decoder, item 54); an interface control module coupled to the input converter for receiving the commands from the input converter (Interactive Voice Response system (IVR), item 29); determining one of the information systems to be accessed (processor, item 38); converting the commands to commands recognizable by the information system (IVR, Fig. 4, items 306,310); forwarding the converted commands to the information system (Fig 4, data network), receiving data from the information system, and detecting the form of the data received from the information system, including whether the data received from the information system is speech or text data; a speech-to-text routing switch coupled to the interface

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control module for receiving data from the information system and control data from the interface control module (Fig. 4, item 306, col. 13); an output switch coupled to the interface control module and the speech-to-text routing switch for receiving speech from the speech-to-text routing switch for receiving a control input from the interface control module, and for forwarding speech from the speech-to-text routing switch to the user device (Fig. 4, item 300, switch); and a text-to-speech converter coupled to the output switch for receiving text from the interface control module, converting the text to speech, and forwarding the speech to the output switch to deliver the speech to the user device (Fig. 4, item 306, IVR, voice network, col. 13, ln 1-50).

In regard to claim 6, Kennedy et al. show in Figure 1, that the user device can be a mobile telephone (item 42, col. 4, ln 25-31).

In regard to claim 7, Kennedy et al. show in Figure 1, that the input converter comprises a voice input-to command converter (audio interface, IVR, items 50, 29, col. 4, col. 13, Fig. 2, microphones, item 200).

In regard to claim 8, Kennedy et al. show in Figure 1, that the input converter comprises a tone input-to command converter (DTMF decoder, item 54, col. 4).

In regard to claim 9, Kennedy et al. show that the interface control module integrates the data from the information system periodically or manually under user control, the interface control module further comprising: means for retrieving data from the information systems; means for determining antecedent comparable relevance of the data; means for updating all of the data to reflect the most recent data; means for

linking relevant data; and means for exporting the linked data to the information system (Fig. 12 A).

In regard to claims 10,13, and 14, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above which comprises: an address book (phone directory, col. 14); voice mail; Internet websites, and email and data is sent over the Internet and can be encrypted (col. 13, ln 1-20).

In regard to claim 11, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above wherein the interface control module integrates and synchronizes (i) a database of a personal information manager, (ii) a database residing on a personal digital assistant (Fig. 1, item 30, col. 4), and (iii) a database residing in the universal interface, the universal interface coupled to a computer on which the personal information database resides, wherein a the computer further comprises: a first input terminal for receiving data from the personal digital assistant, a second input terminal for receiving data from the universal interface; a sensor for detecting a synchronization event triggered by a user requesting synchronization of the database of the personal digital assistant with the database of the personal information manager; an electronic mail system coupled to the Internet; and control logic coupled to receive the synchronized event from the sensor and to transmit data, over the electronic mail system, to the interface control module, wherein the control logic updates the data in each of the databases to reflect the most recent data entered into any database (inherent in the transfer of any PDA to a computer when updating data, col. 4).

In regard to claim 16, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above, wherein the information system comprises at least one of: a dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF, Fig. 1, item 54) driven voice mail system, a voice driven voice mail system, an electronic mail system, a web site, and a personal information manager (col. 13, ln 1-30).

In regard to claim 17, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above, wherein the universal interface determines at least one of the following: whether the voice commands are being received from a user telephone; the information system to be accessed; whether the voice commands, after being converted to commands, are recognizable to the information system; whether the converted commands have been forwarded to the information system; whether data has been received from the information system; whether data from the information system is speech or text; the state of the speech-to-text routing switch; and the state of the output switch (Fig. 12A).

In regard to claim 18, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above, wherein the interface control module further comprises: a translator coupled to the input converter for retrieving the model corresponding to the information system to be accessed and for converting the commands to commands recognizable by the information system (IVR system, Fig. 1, item 29).

In regard to claim 22, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above, inherently comprising a resource manager for establishing conference bridges to an external telephone having a telephone number, wherein: the interface

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control module detects, from the commands from the input converter, whether a conference bridge request has been made; the interface control module retrieves the telephone number of the external telephone to establish the conference bridge; and the interface control module forwards the telephone number to the resource manager; and the resource manager establishes a telephone connection with the external telephone (col. 14, ln 29-67).

In regard to claim 24, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above, wherein the universal interface further comprises a pager manager for sending pager messages to one or more pagers, wherein: the interface control module detects, from the commands from the input converter, whether a pager request has been made; the interface control module retrieves data to be forwarded to the pager; the interface control module retrieves a telephone number of a desired pager to which the data is to be forwarded; the interface control module forwards the data and the telephone number to the pager manager; and the pager manager forwards the data to the designated pager (col. 4, ln 35-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12,20,21,and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy, III et al. (cited above).

In regard to claim 12, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above. They do not specifically show that the synchronization information is sent to the universal interface in its entirety, in compressed form, or in incremental form. The Examiner takes Official Notice that one of ordinary skill in the art would know that information could be sent in different ways.

In regard to claims 20-21, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above. They do not specifically show that the universal interface further comprises: means for detecting a first language in which the inputs from the user device are received; means for detecting a second language associated with the data received from the information system; and means for converting the data received from the information system into the first language. The Examiner takes Official Notice that one of ordinary skill in the art would know that language translators are common in many speech systems.

In regard to claim 23, Kennedy et al. show the universal interface system discussed above. They do not specifically show a facsimile manager for sending facsimiles to one or more facsimile machines, wherein: the interface control module detects, from the commands from the input converter, whether a facsimile request has been made; the interface control module retrieves a telephone number of a designated facsimile machine; the interface control module forwards the data and the telephone number to the facsimile manager; and the facsimile manager faxes the data to the desired facsimile machine. The Examiner takes Official Notice that one of ordinary skill


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in the art would know that a computing device could be connected to a facsimile manager.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan McFadden whose telephone number is 571-272-7621. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susan McFadden
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

January 4, 2007